



## Rabies, Human

reporting code = 07100  
case report form: N/A

### Clinical description

Rabies is an acute encephalomyelitis that almost always progresses to coma or death within 10 days after the first symptom.

### Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

- Detection by direct fluorescent antibody of viral antigens in a clinical specimen (preferably the brain or the nerves surrounding hair follicles in the nape of the neck)

OR

- Isolation (in cell culture or in a laboratory animal) of rabies virus from saliva, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), or central nervous system tissue

OR

- Identification of a rabies-neutralizing antibody titer  $\geq 5$  (complete neutralization) in the serum or CSF
- Identification of a rabies-neutralizing antibody titer  $\geq 5$  (complete neutralization) in the serum or CSF of an unvaccinated person

### Case classification

Confirmed: a clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed

### Comment

Laboratory confirmation by all of the above methods is strongly recommended. CDC requests the following specimens: CSF, serum, or saliva (not sputum), biopsy of skin from the back of the neck just above hairline. Neck biopsy and saliva specimens should be sent packed in dry ice.